GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4275
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
DEMOLITION OF SLUMS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway slum demolition drive in Mumbai has come to an abrupt end;

(b) if so, whether the railway tracks have become free from encroachments;

(c) if not, the reasons for stopping the demolition drive by the Central Railway;

(d) whether the Government have prepared any time bound programme to get free the tracks from encroachments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (f): As certain encroachments on Mankhurd-Kurla-Vadala section had come very close to the railway lines threatening the safety of train operations, the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Mumbai had taken up the matter with Railways for removal ofthese encroachments. The matter was discussed at length with the concerned officers of Government of Maharashtra.A drive was accordingly started on 28.2.2000 for eviction of post 1.1.95 encroachers and the tracks in the area have become partly free from the encroachments. After complaints that some pre 1.1.95 encroachers had also been removed, the drive was temporarily stopped by the Government of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra have now decided to associate a Non Governmental Organisation in identification of the pre 1.1.95 encroachers to rehabilitate them in the tenements constructed by the Mumbai Housing and Development Authority as per their policy and simultaneously remove post 1.1.95 encroaches. Removal of post 1.1.95 encroachments is, however, being carried out in other sections of Central Railway in Mumbai.